

means for maintaining an area of the skin tissue under stress by application of force [at the edges of said area]; and

A5 an imaging head, coupled to said maintaining means, [for] capable of imaging a section of said stressed skin tissue to provide therewith an integrated assembly.

26. (amended) A system for examining [the] tissue [of a patient] comprising:

means for maintaining an area of the tissue under stress by application of force upon said tissue [at the edges of said area]; and

A6 an imaging head, coupled to said maintaining means, capable of [for] imaging said stressed tissue from light returned from a scanned focal spot through said tissue to provide an image of a section [therewith an integrated assembly].

Please insert the following new Claims 27-37 as follows:

A7 27. The system according to Claim 1 wherein said maintaining means comprises a platen having means through which said tissue is imaged by said imaging head.

28. The system according to Claim 27 wherein said platen is positionable with respect to said tissue.

29. The system according to Claim 1 further comprising means for fixing the position of said maintaining means with respect to said patient.

30. The system according to Claim 1 wherein said imaging head is movable with respect to said maintaining means to position said imaging head with respect to said stressed tissue.

31. The system according to Claim 1 wherein said maintaining means applies force against at least the edges of said area of the skin tissue.

32. The system according to Claim 26 wherein said tissue represents one of skin tissue and internal tissue.

33. The system according to Claim 26 wherein said maintaining means applies force against at least the edges of said area of the tissue.

34. The system according to Claim 26 wherein said imaging head is movable with respect to said maintaining means to position said imaging head with respect to said stressed tissue.

35. A method for examination of tissue comprising the steps of:
 providing a platen having an opening;
 maintaining an area of the tissue under stress by application of said platen upon said tissue; and
 imaging said stressed tissue through said opening of said platen.

36. The method according to Claim 35 further comprising the step of:
 positioning said platen with respect to the area of the tissue to be imaged.

37. The method according to Claim 35 wherein said opening of said platen has a material window.

Remarks

Amendments to the Specification after page 1 are the same as amendments made to Parent Application Serial Number 08/942,431.

Claims 9-18, 24 and 25 are cancelled, and Claims 27-37 have been added for consideration by the Examiner.

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Respectfully submitted,

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